



Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities

Celebrating 32 Years of Leadership & Advocacy

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MEMBERS

Kecia B. Weller
President

Janet A. Neal
1st Vice President

Harley D. Rubenstein
2nd Vice President

Bernard Siegel
Treasurer

Mary Chambers
Wan Chun Chang
Michael G. Gureckas
Maria Mustelier-Parrish
Donna Pomerantz
Alexia Teran
John B. Troost
Wendy L. Welt
Sheila D. Wright

MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities was held on Wednesday, June 18, 2008, in Room 140 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Kecia Weller at 1:20 p.m. Roll call was taken by Ms. Rosemary Osuna, Commission Staff and the following Commissioners were present at the meeting: President Weller, 1st Vice President Neal, 2nd Vice President Rubenstein, Treasurer Siegel, and Commissioners Marilyn Giddings for Wan Chun Chang, Maria Mustelier-Parrish, Donna Pomerantz, Alexia Teran, John Troost, Wendy Welt and Sheila Wright. Commissioners Mary Chambers and Michael Gureckas were not present.

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 21, 2008 MINUTES

On motion of Treasurer Siegel, seconded by 2nd Vice President Rubenstein, and unanimously carried, the minutes for the meeting of May 21, 2008 were approved with the following corrections:

Page 1 CALL TO ORDER

. . . 1st Vice President Janet A. ~~Neil~~ Neal, . . .

Page 1 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

. . . Nominations from the floor will also be accepted today for the 2008-09 Offices of President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, and Treasurer.
. . .

Page 7 ANNOUNCEMENTS, second paragraph

1st Vice President Neal announced that May is the ~~Ether Danlos~~ Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome Awareness Month.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniel Garcia, representing the Community Rehabilitation Services, Inc., reported on the Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003, and the competitive bidding program that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services will enter on July 1, 2008 in approximately 10 metropolitan areas for providers of durable medical equipment (DME) such as wheelchairs or speech generating devices. He reported that various disability-related entities fear that this bidding process will bring in providers (companies) that may be unaware of the ancillary services needed when providing DME and will curtail the individualized services needed by Medicare/Medicaid recipients. He encouraged writing to Senators and Congressmen to voice this concern. Mr. Garcia submitted written correspondence.

Sandy Varga reported that she believes that individuals who have filed complaints against Access Services Inc. experience retribution from ASI.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Weller reported that 2nd Vice President Rubenstein and she went to Sacramento on May 15, 2008 to participate in the Disability Action Day. About 500 to 1000 people attended this event. Speakers discussed their experiences with budget cuts, and how budget cuts affect and diminish their lifestyles. President Weller added that participation at this event was a great experience, and encouraged everyone to attend next year.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Rosemary Osuna, Commission Staff reported the following:

- The doors to Rooms B-50 (Commission Services Office) and B-4 (Assessment Appeals Board Office) have been replaced with accessible sliding doors. Both offices are under the umbrella of the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors.
- Commission Services Offices (Room B-50) will be renovated next month. During renovation, some staff may be relocated and not easily accessible. If you are unable to reach staff, please leave a message, and staff will return your call as soon as possible.

STAFF REPORT (Cont.)

- The Disability Rights Legal Center will be hosting “Disability Mentoring Day” on October 15, 2008. For information on this event visit www.disabilityrightslegalcenter.org or call (213) 736-1408 Voice or (213) 736-8310 TTY.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

1st Vice President Neal reported that the Executive Committee met on May 21, 2008, following the Commission on Disabilities regular meeting. The Committee discussed the possibility of having a Commissioners’ Retreat in August 2008 where newly appointed Commissioners as well as seasoned Commissioners can review and discuss the Commission’s Mission, Bylaws, and future Commission Plans. She asked Commissioners to submit their availability for the month of August in order to set a date for the retreat.

Public Relations Committee

Disability Network Radio Program KTYM 1460 AM

1st Vice President Neal reported that the Committee discussed piloting the captioning of the “Disability Network” radio program to determine what the captioning of the program will bring forward.

Commissioner Rubenstein reported that he attended the 2008 Summer Games, Special Olympics on June 14th and 15th at the Bill Fields Expo Park at the California State University, Long Beach where he manned a booth and distributed Commission brochures, and literature from the Office of Supervisor Knabe. He added that the event was a success -- great place to network. This event will be televised on July 20, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. on CBS and on July 26, 2008 on KCAL9.

Commissioner Rubenstein further added that an exhibitor/vendor at this event sold T-shirts with reflective stripes which improve the visibility of individuals with wheelchairs. He would like the Commission to explore the feasibility for the Commission to purchase and sell such products as fundraisers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (Cont.)

Events Committee

1. Access Awards Luncheon

1st Vice President Neal displayed a "Save the Date" postcard that was prepared for the 17th Annual Access Awards Luncheon. She expressed that she was very pleased with the postcard and commended staff for doing an excellent job with the design of the postcard. Commissioners were encouraged to pick up postcards and distribute them to promote the 17th Annual Access Awards Luncheon. 1st Vice President Neal stressed that she would also like to see more ads in the Souvenir Program this year, and encouraged Commissioners to solicit ads for the Souvenir Program. She shared the Commission's 15th Annual Souvenir Program.

2. Bill Tainter Scholarship Program

On motion of Commissioner Welt, seconded by Commissioner Siegel, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the following 2008 Bill Tainter Scholarship Recipients: Troy Hines (1st District), Binna Kim (2nd District), Jessica Quintana (3rd District), Ramiro Valderrama (4th District), and Eric Azus (5th District). The Bill Tainter Scholarship Board Presentation is tentatively scheduled for the August 5, 2008, Board meeting.

3. Summer Games, Special Olympics

On motion of Commissioner Welt, seconded by Commissioner Mustelier-Parrish, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved to pay an invoice for the canopy provided to the Commission at the 2008 Summer Games, Special Olympics in the amount of \$85.

Community Service

The Commission discussed the approval of letter to Mayor Villaraigosa regarding the City of Los Angeles' decision to retain the Department on Disability as a Department, and several Commissioners agreed that the letter to Mayor Villaraigosa was not necessary at this time. Commissioner Pomerantz offered a substitute motion that the Commission send Mayor Villaraigosa a letter thanking him for raising revenue by increasing the citation fees for fraudulent parking in accessible parking spaces. Said motion carried by the following vote:

COMMITTEE REPORTS (Cont.)

Community Service

Ayes: Commissioners Weller, Neal, Rubenstein, Mustelier-Parrish, Pomerantz, Teran, Troost, Welt, and Wright.

Noes: None

Abstentions: Commissioner Siegel

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2008 – 2009 TERM

By a majority vote of the quorum, Commissioners were elected to offices for term 2008-09 as follows:

- President – Kecia Weller
- 1st Vice President – Janet A. Neal
- Treasurer – Bernard Siegel

Due to a lack of the majority vote of the quorum, for the office of 2nd Vice President, the election for the office was deferred to the July 16, 2008, Commission meeting.

On motion of Commission Welt, seconded by Commissioner Neal, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the purchase of refreshments for the Installation Ceremony scheduled for the July 16, 2008, Commission meeting.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

There was no ASI Report.

1st Vice President Neal reported that an ad hoc Transportation Committee met to interview individuals interested in becoming the Commission's ASI Board representative. She thanked all the candidates and congratulated Mr. Kurt Hagen, who was selected to be the Commission's ASI Board representative. 1st Vice President Neal invited the candidates to participate with the Commission's Transportation Committee as they have a good background, knowledge and expertise in the transportation field.

On motion of Commissioner Welt, seconded by 1st Vice President Neal, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved Mr. Kurt Hagen as the Commission's ASI Board representative.

REPORT OF ANTHONY GORDON, SENIOR DEPUTY COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Mr. Kurt Hagen, Deputy Compliance Officer provided an update on the Transition and Self –Evaluation Plans Project and reported the following:

- Preparation of the Transition and Self-Evaluation Plan Project Reports for the first 15 Departments is in progress.
- Reports show that there have been a significant number of barriers that have been mitigated.
- OAAC is seeing a positive trend within the County since the previous reports that were done about 8 to 10 years ago.
- OAAC will report next month on the original number of barriers, the number of barriers that have been removed and still remain, and the plans for barrier removal.
- OAAC continues to work diligently to secure funding, and is confident that at the conclusion of the project funding will be in place for plans to mitigate all barriers and bring the 15 departments completely within compliance with the ADA.
- Approval from the Chief Executive Officer has not been received at this time; however, it is expected that within the next two weeks, necessary approvals will be given to create a new accessible walkway at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration (KHHA) from the plaza area to the second floor. This would give the KHHA a total of four accessible entrances to the building.
- The Office of the Ombudsman is currently providing services to the public, and OAAC is currently evaluating its facilities and determining any barrier issues. OAAC is currently working with the Chief Executive Office to secure funding to mitigate barriers that may exist and bring this office into ADA Compliance.

REPORT OF ANTHONY GORDON, SENIOR DEPUTY COMPLIANCE OFFICER (Cont.)

- The Department of the Coroner was assessed and Internal Services did an excellent job in making the building functionally accessible. There are still some accessibility issues with parking and paths of travel that need to be mitigated, and OAAC continues to work with this Department to get these issues resolved.
- The Department of Museum of Natural History has secured funding for a new ramp in the front entrance. Architectural drawings are pending. OAAC and the Museum are working to mitigate any barrier problems that exist.
- The following Departments are scheduled for the next phase of the project: Beaches and Harbors, Public Social Services, and Mental Health.
- Although OAAC's primary focus for priority is the Transition Plan and Self-Evaluation Plan Update, OAAC is also offering technical assistance to all Departments on issues and complaints that arise during this period. Under a mandate all County Department Transition and Self-Evaluation Plans must be completed in the next 18 months.

Mr. Kurt Hagen added that October 1, 2008, is National Disability Awareness Month; October 15, 2008 is Disability Mentoring Day, and he would like to offer the Commission assistance on behalf of OAAC.

1st Vice President Neal suggested that the ramp that will be placed at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration from the plaza area to the second floor be named after former Commissioner Ernest T. Hamilton, Jr. honoring him for all the contributions he made to the disability community.

ITEMS NOT POSTED FOR CONSIDERATION ON A FUTURE AGENDA

1st Vice President Neal and Commissioner Wright requested that the following items be placed on a future agenda for discussion:

- Status of the Martin Luther King, Jr. MultiService Ambulatory Care Center and services provided to Medi-Cal patients.
- Emergency preparedness training from the City Fire Department.

**ITEMS NOT POSTED FOR CONSIDERATION ON A FUTURE AGENDA
(Cont.)**

- Discussion on preparing something for Supervisor Burke's retirement.
- Discussion on Commission workshop/retreat with the following topics for discussion: Processes for the Access Awards Luncheon, Bill Tainter Scholarship Program, Election of Officers with tentative dates of September 16, 2008 or September 26, 2008.
- Status of a recommendation to make a contribution on behalf of the Commission to the Demetria "Dedie" Ward Memorial Fund.
- Discussion on the feasibility of increasing Commissioners' Stipends.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1st Vice President Janet Neal announced the following:

- The Installation of Officers will take place at the July 16, 2008, Commission Meeting. She would like staff to invite the 2008 Bill Tainter Scholarship Winners.
- She was invited to be interviewed for a program where she will talk about living with HIV.

2nd Vice President Rubenstein will meet with County Counsel to discuss the feasibility of an increase to the Commissioners' stipends.

Commissioner Welt will be having a speaking engagement with Design Mobility on Friday, June 20, 2008.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of 1st Vice President Neal, seconded by Commissioner Welt, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Kecia B. Weller, President
Janet A. Neal, 1st Vice President
Harley D. Rubenstein, 2nd Vice President
Bernard Siegel, Treasurer
Marilyn Giddings for Wan-Chun Chang
Maria Mustelier-Parrish
Donna Pomerantz
Alexia Teran
John B. Troost
Wendy L. Welt
Sheila Wright

Board of Supervisors

Rosemary Osuna, Staff
Martha Arana, Staff
Audra Galang, Staff

Guests

Jonathan Gleicher, Lifesigns, Inc.
Laura Ripplinger, Lifesigns, Inc.
Sharene Ramirez, Total Recall Captioning
Donald Brandon, American Legion Post No. 8
Magda Carrero, East Los Angeles Regional Center
Daniel Garcia, Community Rehabilitation Services, Inc.
Jesse Padilla, East Los Angeles Regional Center
Ray Louis McKeever, SCAPB
Susan Susman, Consumer Affairs
Karl Swirkal
Sandy Varga
Maria Villaseñor
Marvin White

Excused Absence

Mary Chambers
Michael Gureckas

Los Angeles County

Kurt Hagen, OAAC

Access Services, Inc.

Teddie-Joy Remhild